

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0406

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SW, XT

SUBJECT: MEETING OF SOCIALIST LEADERS IN HELSINGOR

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1. MFA OFFICIALS WITH CLOSE TIES TO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PARTY, WHO WAS BRIEFED BY MEMBER OF SWEDISH DELEGATION,

DISCUSSED HELSINGOR SOCIALIST SUMMIT WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL, SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER PALME TOOK POSITION MID-WAY BETWEEN GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT AND FRENCH SOCIALIST LEADER FRANCOIS MITTERAND ON QUESTION OF SOCIALIST ATTITUDE TOWARD COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN POPULAR FRONT GOVERNMENTS IN WESTERN EUROPE. IN PALME'S VIEW, THERE IS VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN NORTHERN EUROPE, WHERE COMMUNIST VOTE IS NEGLIGIBLE, AND COUNTRIES LIKE FRANCE AND ITALY, WHERE IT IS 25 PERCENT OR MORE. IN FORMER CASE, SUCH AS SWEDEN, PALME REJECTS ANY IDEA OF BRINGING COMMUNISTS INTO GOVERNMENT (ALTHOUGH HE DOES ACCEPT THEIR SUPPORT). HE SAID PALME AGREED WITH SCHMIDT THAT IN SUCH CASES COMMUNIST PARTIES SHOULD BE "ISOLATED."

2. WITH REGARD TO THOSE COUNTRIES WITH LARGE COMMUNIST PARTIES, PALME'S POSITION IS MORE "FLEXIBLE," OFFICIAL SAID. EACH CASE MUST BE JUDGED ON ITS OWN MERITS, AND IF ITALIAN SOCIALISTS CONSIDER COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION APPROPRIATE, PALME WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO PASS ADVERSE JUDGEMENT, PROVIDED THAT COMMUNIST PARTY IN QUESTION ABANDONED ITS CONCEPTS OF DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM (WHICH HE DEFINES AS "ELITISM") AND THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT. (THIS IS SAME LANGUAGE USED BY PALME IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR JUST PRIOR TO HELSINGOR MEETING.)

3. OFFICIAL SUGGESTED THAT PALME, IN CONTRAST TO HIS USUAL STYLE, WAS NOT IN FOREFRONT IN DEBATE ON QUESTION OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENTS, ALTHOUGH HE POINTED OUT THAT PALME'S VIEW THAT INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES MUST DECIDE THIS QUESTION IN LIGHT OF THEIR OWN UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES WAS LINE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AT MEETING.

4. PALME'S COMMENTS TO PRESS ON HELSINGOR MEETING HAVE BEEN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY RESTRAINED. SPEAKING TO SWEDISH NEWSMEN AT ELSINORE, PALME DESCRIBED PRESENTATION BY SPANISH SOCIALIST FELIPE GONZALES AS "EXCELLENT,"
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AND SAID 1976 WOULD BE A YEAR OF "VITAL IMPORTANCE" FOR SPAIN. THE OUTSIDE WORLD WOULD HAVE TO SHOW PATIENCE TOWARDS SPAIN, PALME ASSERTED, BUT ADDED "THIS PATIENCE HAS ITS LIMITS." IF PROGRESS IS NOT MADE TOWARDS FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND LABOR UNIONS AND THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, "THE CHANCES OF A CIVIL WAR WILL INCREASE." THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED PALME AS WELCOMING THE FACT THAT THE HELSINGOR MEETING DID NOT DEAL WITH SECURITY ISSUES NOR WITH THE SUPER POWERS. HE CLAIMED THAT THE "SOCIALIST MOVEMENT" IN THE THIRD

WORLD ARE FEARFUL OF THE SUPER POWERS, AND SEEK INSTEAD
TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH WEST EUROPEAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.
HE CITED IN THIS CONNECTION SWEDISH CONTACTS WITH
SOCIALIST FORCES IN MEXICO AND VENEZUELA AS WELL AS
WITH "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" IN AFRICA.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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